

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

--Fig. 2 illustrates the piston 7 in the version according to Fig. 1 on an enlarged scale. The piston 7 is fixed axially on a pin 17 of the piston rod 5. A guide sleeve 19 in conjunction with a stop washer 21 is braced together with the piston against a shoulder of the piston rod 5. The piston 7 has a blind hole 23 in which a spring 25 is arranged. The blind hole has a flow passage 27 which connects the two working spaces 9; 11 as a function of the operating position of a valve body 29. The valve body 29 which consists of plastic is prestressed in the opening direction against the stop washer 21 by the spring 25. The spring, which is designed as a conical coil spring, is supported on the bottom of the blind hole, the end coil of the conical coil spring running radially outside a graduated circle on which the flow passage 27 is formed. Damping medium can flow into a gap 31 between a conical closing surface 33 of the valve body 29 and an end-side valve seat surface 35 of the piston 7 into the blind hole 23 of the piston and then can continue on into the working space 9 through the at least one flow passage. In the ideal case, the closing surface 33 of the valve body and the valve seat surface 35 have linear contact, with the result that a very reliable sealing function is ensured in conjunction with the valve body which consists of plastic and is therefore elastic within limits. To achieve the linear (essentially one-dimensional) contact, the valve seat surface 35 is an essentially one dimensional circular surface formed at the intersection of the planar end surface of the piston and the cylindrical inside wall of the blind hole 23.--